

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A non-periodic dot output arrangement is taken in the low thickness region, and a periodic dot output arrangement is taken in the intermediate and high thickness region. In addition, error diffusion processing is made for all thickness regions. Small dots are produced in the non-periodic dot arrangement low-thickness region, and dot-concentrated-type dots are produced in the periodic dot arrangement intermediate-and-high-thickness region. Moreover, non-periodic dots are produced in the edge region of the image.